THE FAMILY MAGAZINE,

OR

WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE.

VOL. I. NEW YORK, SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1833. NO. 19.

HISTORY.

[From the Tourist.]

THE BOOK OF JASHER: with Testimonies and Notes, Critical and Historical, Explanatory of the Text.—Translated into English from the Hebrew by FLACCUS ALBINUS, of Britain, Abbot of Canterbury. 4to.

WE have the pleasure of introducing to our readers, in this volume, a work of no small interest, whether its pretensions to antiquity be genuine or spurious. It purports to be the Book of Jasher, quoted in the Old Testament, in the books of Joshua and Samuel. Every document which refers to so early and obscure a period of the world's history, and which records events previously known to us only on the testimony of Divine revelation, must be an object of much curiosity; and this we will endeavour, in the present instance, to gratify, by bringing before our readers the evidences which attest its authenticity, and some account of the subjects on which it treats.

The Editor, to whom we owe the publication of the volume before us, states in the outset that he is unable to assert any thing respecting it of his own knowledge, further than the account given by Alcuin,* the discoverer and translator of it; which, he says, carries with it such an air of probability and truth, that he does not doubt of its authenticity. This account we have condensed into the following narrative:—

I, Alcuin, was desirous of travelling into the Holy Land and into Persia, in search of holy things, and to see the wonders of the East. I took with me two companions, Thomas of Malmesbury, and John of Huntingdon, who learned with me the languages necessary to be known, under able teachers; and, though we went as pilgrims, yet we took with us considerable riches. We embarked at Bristol, and went first to Rome, where the Pope blessed us, and encouraged us in our undertaking. From Rome we went to Greece, and thence to the Holy Land. After having visited every part of the Holy Land, particularly Bethlehem, Hebron, Mount Sinai, and the like, we crossed an arm of the Persian Gulf at Bassora, and went in a boat to Bagdad, and thence by land to Ardevil, and so to Casbin. Here we learned from an ascetic, that in the furthermost part of Persia, in the city of Gazna, was a manuscript in Hebrew of *the Book of Jasher*, which he reminded them was twice mentioned in the Bible, and appealed to as a book of testimony.—We immediately undertook the journey to Gazna, and on arriving there we laid aside the pilgrim's dress; and I hired a house, where we dwelt during our stay in the city—a period of three years.

I soon became acquainted with the keeper of the library, which belongs to the community of this city, and inquired of him concerning *the Book of Jasher*, of which the recluse at Casbin had told us. He said he had read of such a manuscript in the catalogue of the library, but had never seen it, though he had been custos for forty-five years; that it was locked up in a chest and kept among the antiquities in a separate part of the library.

[*To be Continued.*]

* Alcuin flourished in the eighth century. He was one of the most distinguished ornaments of the court of Charlemagne, and founded the University of Paris in the year 800.

ASTRONOMY.

THE FOUR NEW PLANETS—VESTA, CERES, PALLAS, AND JUNO.

WITHIN the present century, four new planets have been discovered, which had escaped the notice of astronomers on account of their smallness: their *orbits* are between those of *Mars* and *Jupiter*.

The nearest of these to the Sun is called VESTA, and it is calculated that her mean distance from him is 222,000,000 of miles. She is very small, but no accurate admeasurement has yet been made of her diameter.

Vesta performs her revolution round the *Sun* in five years and twenty-three days. The length of her day and night is unknown.

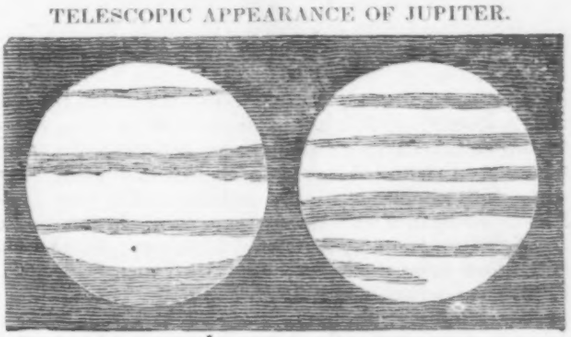
Vesta was discovered by DR. OLBERS of Bremen, March 29, 1807. The next of these planets is *Ceres*, which is 265,000,000 of miles from the Sun, and performs her revolution round him in 4 years, 21 days and a half. Her diameter has been estimated at 160 miles.

CERES was discovered Jan. 1, 1801, the first day of the present century, by M. PIOZZI of Palermo, in Sicily. This planet was so named in honour of *Ceres Ferdinandez*, King of Naples.

PALLAS, discovered by DR. OLBERS, March 28, 1802, is exceedingly small, being, according to *Dr. Herschel*, not more than thirty miles in diameter, though by others she is estimated at 110. She is 265,000,000 of miles from the *Sun*, and makes a circuit of her orbit in the same time as *Ceres* does.

JUNO, discovered September 1, 1804, by M. HARDING, of *Lilienthal*, near Bremen, revolves at about 290,000,000 of miles from the *Sun*, and is 5 years, 182 1-2 days performing her course. She appears like a star of the eighth magnitude, but the measure of her diameter has not yet been ascertained. Her orbit lies between the orbits of *Mars* and *Ceres*.

TELESCOPIC APPEARANCE OF JUPITER.



FROM the contemplation of these diminutive planets we turn to the mighty JUPITER, which, from his immense bulk, is very probably named after the *fabulous* king and father of the *gods* and *men*.

This immense planet is 89,170 miles in diameter, and is about 1400 times larger than the *Earth*. His mean distance from the Sun is computed at 490,000,000 of miles, and he moves in his orbit at the rate of about 25,000 miles an hour, or about one-fourth of the velocity of *Mercury*.

But while his motion in his orbit is thus comparatively slow, his diurnal rotation on his axis is amazing, being not less than 26,000 miles an hour.

The time of Jupiter's revolution in his orbit is 11 years, 315 days, 14 hours; and on his axis, 9 hours, 56 minutes: his year is therefore 12 of ours, but his astronomical day is not half so long as that of the *Earth*.

JUPITER, when viewed through a telescope, appears to have a luminous atmosphere in which spots and streaks are seen, the latter of which are denominated *Belts*.—That these are formed in some fluid substance is evident from their frequently varying their number, their form, and their direction. Sometimes several belts are seen across the body of the planet; sometimes these coalesce into one broad belt; sometimes the belts are in a diagonal* direction, but this is a rare occurrence.

If we may hazard a conjecture, it seems probable that this luminous atmosphere is intended by its GREAT CREATOR to supply the want of light to *Jupiter*, occasioned by his great distance from the *Sun*; for as the *Sun* appears to *Jupiter* forty-eight times less than he does to us, his light must be so small in proportion; and if the satellites of *Jupiter* reflect only the light they receive from the Sun, the assistance they afford must be trifling indeed.

If, on the contrary, we suppose *Jupiter*, *Saturn*, and *Uranus*, to be thus provided with a supply of light in addition to that which they receive from the *Sun*, the spots and belts on their surface will be rationally accounted for, as well as the brilliancy of their satellites, which are at too immense a distance to be completely illuminated by the Sun's rays. The openings in the atmosphere of *Jupiter*, by which his opaque body is partially seen, assume the form of belts, probably in consequence of the great swiftness of his rotation on his axis.

The form of *Jupiter* is that of an oblate spheroid, his equatorial diameter exceeding his axis by six thousand miles; this, however, is so small in comparison with his bulk, as to detract but little from his rotundity.

The axis of *Jupiter* is nearly perpendicular to the plane of his orbit, so that he has no variety of seasons; this is another proof of infinite wisdom in the arrangement of the planetary worlds; for had his axis been much inclined, vast tracts round the poles would have been deprived of the Sun's influence for six of our years together.

Jupiter is attended by four secondary planets or satellites, which revolve round him as their primary, and with him round the *Sun*; the *first* of these, which is rather more distant from him than the *Moon* from the *Earth*, performs its revolution in 1 day, 18 hours, 27 1-2 minutes; the *second* about 420,000 miles distant, revolves in 3 days, 13 hours, 13 3-4 minutes; the *third* about 676,000 miles distant in 7 days, 3 hours, 42 1-2 minutes; and the *fourth* about 1,200,000 in 16 days, 16 hours, 32 minutes.

Imagination cannot picture to itself a more magnificent and sublime object than *Jupiter*, when viewed from his *satellites*. The *Earth* appears exceedingly large and splendid to the inhabitants of the Moon, it being forty-nine times the bulk of that satellite. But what must this be compared with the view of *Jupiter* from the nearest satellite; the distance is but little more than that of the *Moon* from the *Earth*; yet, the bulk of *Jupiter* is 68,000 times that of the *Moon*.

The satellites of *Jupiter* are at certain times hidden from the view of the Earth in two ways; either by their passing through the shadow of their primary, which constitutes an eclipse of the satellite, or by passing behind his body, which is denominated an *occultation*.

By accurate observations made on these Eclipses and occultations, the distance of *Jupiter* from the Earth, the progressive velocity of light, and the longitude of places may be determined.

The velocity of light may be discovered with tolerable accuracy, by observing how much sooner an eclipse of one of his satellites may be seen when *Jupiter* is in his *perigee*, or nearest distance from the Earth, than when he is in his *apogee*, or greatest distance: as this is about a quarter of an hour, light traverses the diameter of the Earth's orbit in that time, and consequently from the Sun to the Earth in between seven and eight minutes.

The difference of longitude between two places may be found by a person at each of the places observing the same eclipse of one of Jupiter's satellites; the difference of the computed time being turned into degrees and minutes, reckoning an hour equal to fifteen degrees, will give the difference of longitude between the two places.

Both the planets and their satellites appear to move in a different direction at different times; at one period seeming to move from *west* to *east*, and at another from *east* to *west*; the *former* is called their direct, and the *latter* their retrograde motion.

When a planet is arrived at the eastern or western extremity of its orbit, it seems for a time to be stationary, though it is in reality moving with its usual velocity; these appearances are merely the result of the situation of the planet's orbit as it respects the *Earth*.

The satellites of Jupiter sometimes transit his disc, but are too distant to be observed in that situation, unless with a very powerful telescope, especially as their illuminated side is then wholly or partially turned towards the Earth.

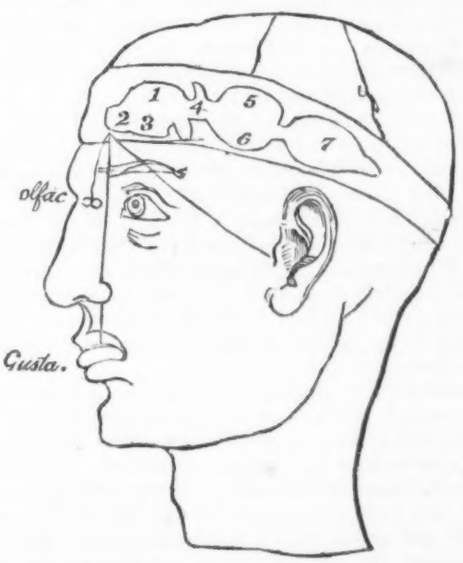
Notwithstanding the different periods of their revolution, these satellites sometimes rise at the same time, and sometimes all are on the meridian together. In these positions they must present a very interesting spectacle.

The satellites of Jupiter were first discovered by *Galileo*, in 1610, who called them *Medicean stars*, in honour of the family of *Medici*, his patrons.

* *Diagonal*, drawn across a figure from one corner to another

NATURAL HISTORY.

Before leaving the subject of Phrenology, we will introduce as a matter of curiosity an antique cut representing the phrenological scheme of the celebrated Johannes Scotus Erigena, who flourished in Ireland in the ninth century. It will be perceived that his system was much more simple than that of the modern phrenologists, but that it contains, notwithstanding, the phrenological principle, in that it divides the brain into different departments, assigning to each a particular faculty of the mind.



No. 1. Fantasia. 2. Sensus Communis. 3. Imaginativa. 4. An inscription which cannot be deciphered. 5. Cogitativa. 6. Estimativa. 7. Memorativa.

We will now proceed from the brain to other parts of the human system; in doing which, we will resume our extracts from "Goodrich's Family Encyclopedia."

THE THORAX or Chest consists of the upper portion of the trunk of the human body; it is enclosed by the ribs, having the *sternum* or breast bone in the front, and a portion of the bones of the back behind. It is separated from the liver, stomach, intestines, &c. by the *diaphragm*, or midriff. The thorax contains the lungs, heart, &c. and numerous blood vessels, nerves, and absorbents. It is also separated by a membrane called *mediastinum*, into a right and left portion.

The RESPIRATION is that action of the lungs and diaphragm consisting of the process of inspiration and expiration, by which air is received into and expelled from the thorax or chest. The quantity of air taken into the lungs at each natural inspiration, is supposed to be about 15 or 16 cubic inches; the number of respirations made in a minute is about 20.

The WINDPIPE is a cartilaginous and membraneous canal, through which the air passes into and from the lungs. It is divided by anatomists into three parts,—the *larynx*, the *trachea*, and the *bronchia*.

The *larynx* is a hollow cartilaginous organ at the top of the trachea. The air which passes through it during the respiration produces the voice.

The *trachea* is that portion of the windpipe which extends from the larnyx to the *bronchia*.

The *bronchia* is a term given to the trachea after it has entered the thorax or chest; here it separates into two branches, one of which communicates with the right and the other with the left lung.

The LUNGS are two viscera situated in the thorax, by means of which we breathe. The lung in the right cavity of the chest is divided into three, that in the left cavity into two lobes. They hang in the chest, attached at their superior part by means of the trachea, and are separated by a membrane called *mediastinum*. They are funished with innumerable cells, which are formed by a continuation of the trachea, the bronchial tubes of which communicate with each other; the whole appears not unlike a honey-comb.

The most important use of the lungs is for the process of respiration, by which the circulation of the blood appears to be immediately supported; and, doubtless, by their alternate inflation and collapsing, they contribute with the diaphragm to promote the various functions of the abdominal viscera, such as digestion, &c. For the change which the blood undergoes in its passage through the lungs, see the following articles.

The HEART is a hollow, strong, muscular viscous, having the shape of a cone or pyramid reversed. Its size varies in different subjects; it is generally about six inches long, and, at the base, about four or five wide. The younger the subject, the larger is the heart in proportion to the body. It is often smaller in tall and strong men than in others. It is situated on the left side of the thorax, and is surrounded by a membrane called *pericardium* or *heart purse;* it is also imbedded, as it were, in the left lung. Its weight, with the pericardium, is usually from ten to fifteen ounces. It is the centre of the circulation of the blood: of course, from it all the *arteries* arise, and in it all the *veins* terminate. It is divided internally into a right and left *ventricle;* these are divided by a fleshy *septum*. Each ventricle has two orifices; one auricular, through which the blood enters, the other arterious, through which the blood passes out. These four orifices are supplied with *valves*. There are also two cavities adhering to the base of the heart called *auricles*. The heart has, in the living subject, an alternate motion, consisting of contraction and dilation, called *systole* and *diastole*, by means of which the blood is circulated throughout the body. The heart is said to contract 4000 times in an hour; hence, as each ventricle contains one ounce of blood, there passes through the heart every hour 4000 ounces, or 350 pounds of blood. The whole mass of blood is about twenty-eight pounds, so that this quantity passes through the heart thirteen or fourteen times in an hour, or about once in every four or five minutes. In the whale, ten or twelve gallons of blood are thrown out of the heart at a stroke, with an immense velocity, through a tube of a foot diameter.

An ARTERY, or a pulsating blood-vessel, is a cylindrical canal conveying the blood immediately from the heart to all parts of the body for the purposes of nutrition, preservation of life, generation of heat, and the secretion of different fluids. The motion of the blood in the arteries is called the *pulse:* it corresponds with that of the heart. The pulse may be felt in various parts of the body, but the most usual place of feeling is at the wrist. From seventy to eighty pulsations in a minute are commonly the number which in the adult subject is considered, as far as the pulse is concerned, to constitute health. In children, however, the pulse is much quicker than this; and in old persons slower. Wounds in *arteries* are always dangerous, and very frequently mortal; hence the wisdom evinced in the structure of man: all the arteries are deeply imbedded in flesh, or other surrounding media, while the veins, a wound in which is comparatively unimportant, are plentifully scattered on the surface of the body. The blood in the arteries is of a florid red colour.

A VEIN is a blood-vessel, which returns the blood from the various parts of the body to the heart. The veins do not pulsate; the blood flows through them very slowly, and is conveyed to the heart by the contractility of their coats, the pressure of the blood from the arteries, the action of the muscles, and respiration; and it is prevented from going backwards in the veins by *valves*, of which there are a great number. The blood in the veins is of a much darker red than that in the arteries.

Before we treat of the blood itself, it may be useful to know the component parts of atmospheric *air*, so essential to the life of all warm blooded animals.

AIR was for many ages considered as a simple homogeneous fluid; and it was not till towards the end of the last century that it was found to be a compound body. Common air is composed chiefly of two gases, of which one, *oxygen*, forms of it 24 parts by weight, and the other, *nitrogen*, forms of it 76 parts; or about 21 parts of the former, and 79 of the latter by bulk. These proportions are found the same in whatever part of the world the experiments are made, or from whatever height in the atmosphere the air is obtained. It ought however to be mentioned, that besides these ingredients, common air contains a very minute portion of *carbonic acid gas*, but that portion is in general so small as not indeed to be considered of any moment. Of the two portions of atmospheric air, the *oxygen* only supports animal life or combustion. Thus, if an animal be inclosed under a bell glass, containing atmospherical air, it will live in it till all the oxygen is absorbed by its breathing, and then it instantly dies; the same takes place when a lighted candle is inclosed under similar circumstances; hence the necessity and importance of this fluid to animal existence. But although only about one fourth of atmospheric air can support life, it yet appears that such a mixture is more advantageous for animal life than oxygen alone; thus evincing the wisdom of that mixture found every where as atmospheric air. In what state of combination the two gases are which constitute common air, is not exactly known; but we well know that a more intimate union of the same materials produces most powerful agents, namely, the *nitrous* and the *nitric* acids.

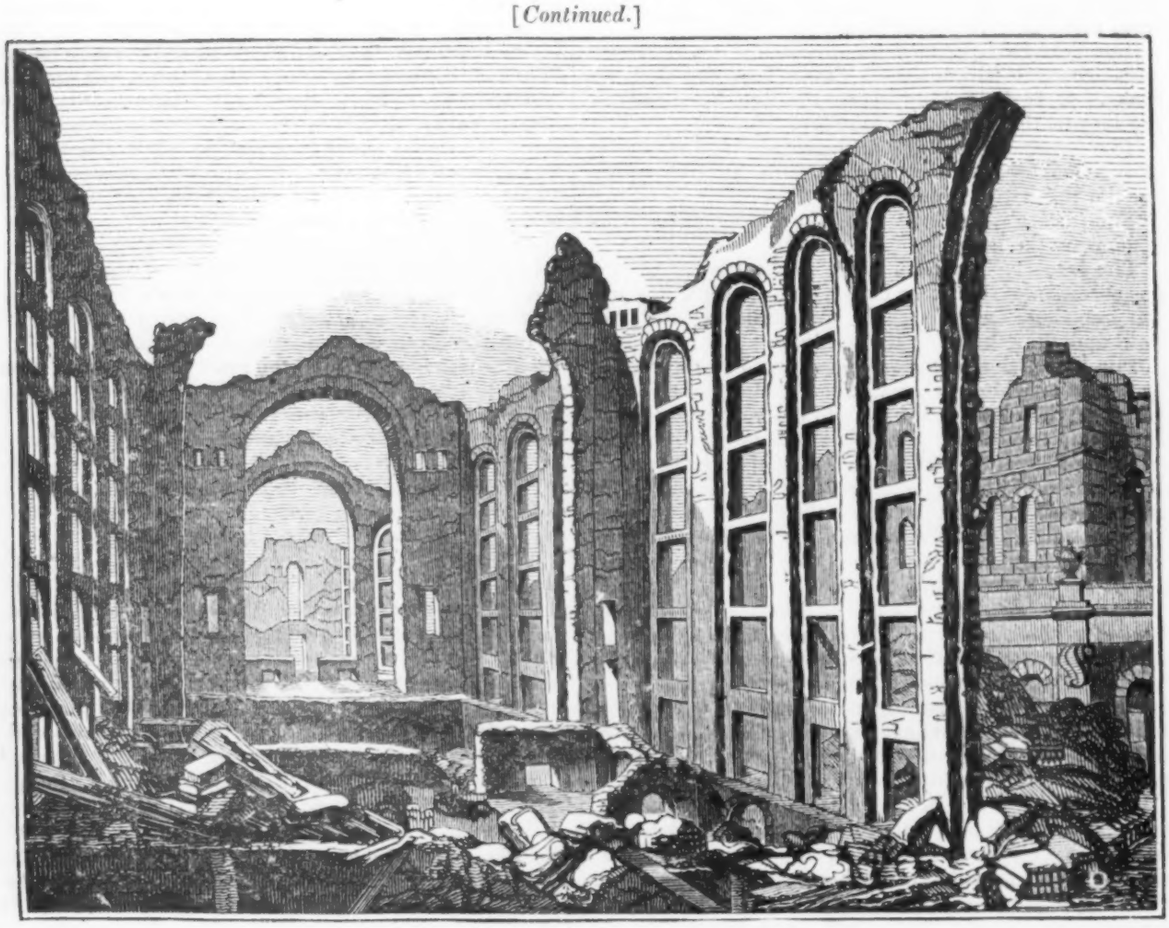
The BLOOD is a red fluid of a saltish taste, of a somewhat urinous smell, and glutinous consistence, which circulates in the heart, arteries, and veins, conveying nutrition, heat, and excitement to the whole body. The quantity of blood in the human body is estimated to be about twenty-eight pounds in an adult. Of this, four parts are contained in the veins, and a fifth in the arteries. The blood being returned by the *veins*, of a dark red color, to the heart, is sent from that viscous

into the lungs, to undergo some material change by coming in contact with atmospheric air in the air-cells of the lungs; after which, as has been stated, it is returned to the heart again, of a much more florid color, and then impelled into the arteries, to be distributed over the body. The heat of the blood is usually about 98 degrees.

THORACIC DUCT, an important vessel, called the trunk of the absorbents. It is attached to the bones of the back, and extends from the lower opening of the *midriff* or *diaphragm* (a membrane which separates the heart and lungs from the stomach, bowels, and other abdominal viscera,) to the angle formed by the union of the left subclavian and jugular veins, into which it opens and evacuates its contents, there to be mixed with the blood. Those contents consist chiefly of *chyle*, a whitish or milky fluid, separated from the food by the process of digestion, and taken up by the absorbents thickly spread over the intestines, and by them conveyed to the thoracic duct.

EARTHQUAKES.

[*Continued.*]



INTERIOR OF THE OPERA HOUSE IN LISBON,

From a print by Le Bas, published in 1757, after a drawing made on the spot..

Now that we are on the ravages of the earthquake at Lisbon, we will introduce several extracts from another account of the same event, for the purpose of giving several additional cuts by way of illustration of that tremendous scene. These extracts are from "Davy's Letters on Literature," purported to have been communicated to him by an English merchant resident at the time in that ill-fated city. They follow.

There never was a finer morning seen than the 1st of November; the sun shone out in its full lustre; the whole face of the sky was perfectly serene and clear; and not the least signal or warning of that approaching event, which has made this once flourishing, opulent, and populous city a scene of the utmost horror and desolation, except only such as served to alarm, but scarcely left a moment's time to fly from the general destruction.

'T was on the morning of this fatal day, between the hours of nine and ten, that I was set down in my apartment, just finishing a letter, when the papers and table I was writing on began to tremble with a gentle motion, which rather surprised me, as I could not perceive a breath of wind stirring. Whilst I was reflecting with myself what this could be owing to, but without having the least apprehension of the real cause, the whole house began to shake from the very foundation; which at first I imputed to the rattling of several coaches in the main street which usually passed that way at this time from Belem to the palace; but on hearkening more attentively, I was soon undeceived, as I found it was owing to a strange frightful kind of noise under ground, resembling the hollow distant rumblings of thunder. All this passed in less than a minute, and I must confess I now began to be alarmed, as it naturally occurred to me that this noise might possibly be the forerunner of an earthquake, as one I remembered, which had happened about six or seven years ago, in the island of Madeira, commenced in the same manner, though it did little or no damage.

Upon this I threw down my pen, and started upon my feet, remaining a moment in suspense, whether I should stay in the apartment or run into the street, as the danger in both places seemed equal; and still flattering myself that this tremor might produce no other

effects than such inconsiderable ones as had been felt at Madeira; but in a moment I was roused from my dream, being instantly stunned with a most horrid crash, as if every edifice in the city had tumbled down at once. The house I was in shook with such violence that the upper stories immediately fell, and though my apartment (which was the first floor) did not then share the same fate, yet every thing was thrown out of its place in such a manner, that it was with no small difficulty I kept my feet, and expected nothing less than to be soon crushed to death, as the walls continued rocking to and fro in the frightfullest manner, opening in several places; large stones falling down on every side from the cracks, and the ends of most of the rafters starting out from the roof. To add to this terrifying scene, the sky in a moment became so gloomy that I could now distinguish no particular object; it was an Egyptian darkness indeed, such as might be felt; owing, no doubt, to the prodigious clouds of dust and lime raised from so violent a concussion, and, as some reported, to sulphureous exhalations, but this I cannot affirm; however, it is certain I found myself almost choked for near ten minutes.

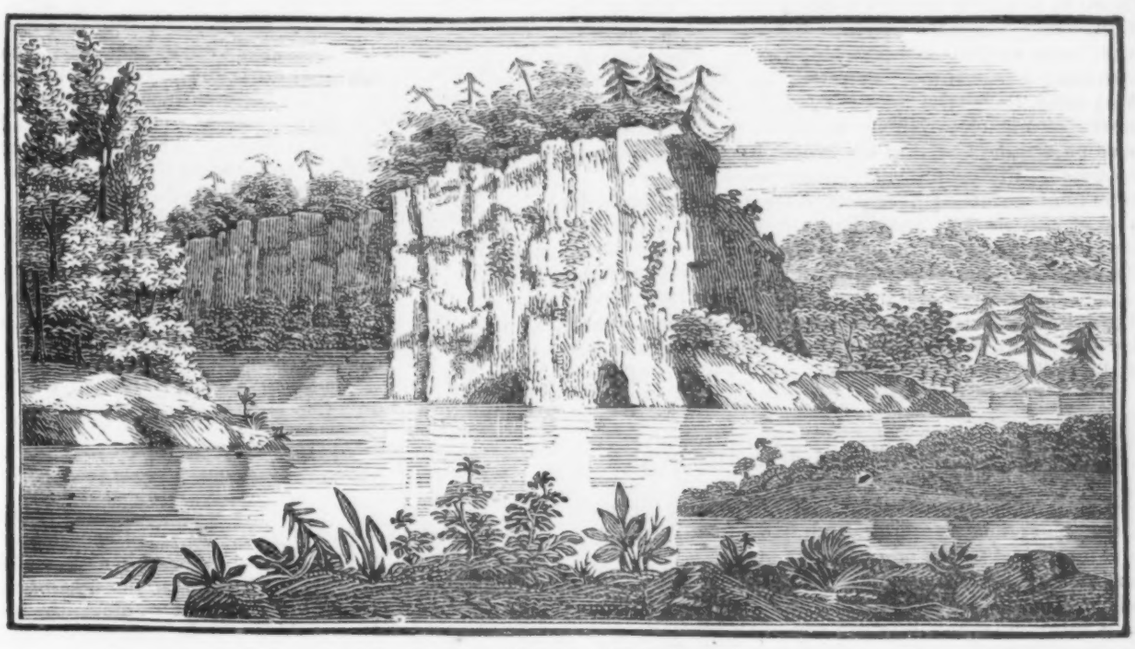
Our author then proceeds to describe his escape from his place of residence through a long narrow street, exposed to the most imminent perils from the falling fragments of shattered buildings. He continues thus:—

I proceeded on as fast as I conveniently could, though with the utmost caution, and having at length got clear of this horrid passage, I found myself safe and unhurt in the large open space before St. Paul's church, which had been thrown down a few minutes before, and buried a great part of the congregation, that was generally pretty numerous, this being reckoned one of the most populous parishes in Lisbon. Here I stood some time considering what I should do, and not thinking myself safe in this situation, I came to the resolution of climbing over the ruins of the west end of the church, in order to get to the river's side, that I might be removed as far as possible from the tottering houses, in case of a second shock.

This with some difficulty I accomplished, and here I found a prodigious concourse of people of both sexes, and of all ranks and conditions, among whom I observed some of the principal canons of the patriarchal church in their purple robes and rochets, as these all go in the habit of bishops; several priests who had run from the altars in their sacerdotal vestments in the midst of their celebrating mass; ladies half dressed, and some without shoes; all these, whom their mutual dangers had here assembled as to a place of safety, were on their knees at prayers, with the terrors of death in their countenances, every one striking his breast and crying out incessantly *Miserecordia meu Dios.*

After some further description of this multitude, he proceeds thus:—

As I thought it would be the height of rashness to venture back through the same narrow street I had so providentially escaped from, I judged it safest to return over the ruins of St. Paul's to the river side, as the water now seemed little agitated. From hence I proceeded with some hazard to the large space before the Irish convent of Corpo Santo, which had been thrown down, and buried a great number of people who were hearing mass, besides some of the friars; the rest of the community were standing in the area, looking with dejected countenances towards the ruins: from this place I took my way to the back street leading to the Palace, having the ship yard on one side, but found the further passage, opening into the principal street, stopped up by the ruins of the Opera-house, one of the solidest and most magnificent buildings of the kind in Europe, and just finished at a prodigious expense; a vast heap of stones, each o several tons weight, had entirely blocked up the front of Mr. Bristow's house, which was opposite to it, and Mr. Ward, his partner, told me the next day that he was just that instant going out at the door, and had actually set one foot over the threshold, when the west end of the Opera-house fell down, and had he not in a moment started back, he should have been crushed into a thou sand pieces.



ROCK FORT ON THE ILLINOIS RIVER.

This is an elevated cliff on the left bank of the Illinois, consisting of parallel layers of white sandstone. It is not less than two hundred and fifty feet high, perpendicular on three sides, and washed at its base by the river. On the fourth side it is connected with the adjacent range of hills by a narrow peninsular ledge, which can only be ascended by a precipitous, winding path. The summit of this rock is level, and contains about three-fourths of an acre. It is covered with a soil of several feet in depth, bearing a growth of young trees. Strong and almost inaccessible by nature, this natural battlement has been still further fortified by the Indians,

and many years ago was the scene of a desperate conflict between the Pottawattomies, and one band of the Illinois Indians. The latter fled to this place for refuge from the fury of their enemies. The post could not be carried by assault, and tradition says that the besieged let down vessels attached to ropes of bark, from a part of the precipice which overhangs the river, but their enemies succeeded in cutting off these ropes as often as they were let down. The consequence was a surrender, which was followed by a total extirpation of the band.*

On gaining the top of this rock, we found, says Schoolcraft, a regular entrenchment, corresponding to the edge of the precipice, and within this other excavations, which, from the thick growth of brush and trees, could not be satisfactorily examined. The labor of many hands was manifest, and a degree of industry which the Indians have not usually bestowed upon works of defence. We found upon this elevation broken muscle shells, fragments of antique pottery, and stones which had been subject to the action of heat, resembling certain lavas.

From this elevated spot an extensive and diversified view of prairie scenery is presented, and the objects about our encampment appeared reduced to a diminutive size.

> "How fearful
> And dizzy 'tis, to cast one's eye so low!
> The crows and choughs, that wing the midway air,
> Show scarce so gross as beetles."

The soil which results from the gradual disintegration of this rock, is nearly a pure sand. On descending, we found the prickly pear (cactus) covering a considerable portion of this soil, where scarcely any other plant is hardy enough to vegetate.

Of the height of this cliff, the estimate which we have given is merely conjectural. The effect upon the observer is striking and imposing. But we are disposed to think the effect of loftiness produced by objects of this nature is not so much the result of the actual, as of the comparative height. We have often felt, as we have on the present occasion, an impression of grandeur produced by a solitary precipice two or three hundred feet high, rising abruptly above a flat alluvial country or lake, more striking and imposing than at other times in traversing a region more elevated, and where "Alps on Alps arise." In the latter case, the eye constantly measures one elevation by another; in the former we have no standard of this kind, and hence undoubtedly overrate. Philosophically considered, the height of prominent points of a country is estimated above the level of the nearest sea. But the effect produced on the eye or the imagination begins to be felt only from that part of a mountain where it first makes a striking angle with the plain. The annexed view of this modern Oxus is taken from a position on the opposite side of the river, directly in front of the most precipitous face of the rock.

* Charlevoix.

A SCENE OF EXTREME HORROR IN THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT.

Some French travellers attempting to explore the vaults of the Egyptian Pyramids, and had already traversed an extensive labyrinth of chambers and passages; they were on their return, and had arrived at the most difficult part of it,—a very long and winding passage, forming a communication between two chambers; its opening narrow and low. The ruggedness of the floor, sides, and roof, rendered their progress slow and laborious, and these difficulties increased rapidly as they advanced. The torch with which they had entered became useless, from the impossibility of holding it upright, as the passage diminished its height. Both its height and width at length, however, became so much contracted, that the party were compelled to crawl on their bellies. Their wanderings in these interminable passages (for such in their fatigue of body and mind they deemed them) seemed to be endless. Their alarm was very great, and their patience already exhausted, when the headmost of the party cried out, that he could discern the light at the exit of the passage, at a considerable distance ahead, but that he could advance no further, and that in his efforts to press on, in hopes to surmount the obstacle without complaining, he had squeezed himself so far into the reduced opening, that he had now no longer sufficient strength even to recede! The situation of the whole party may be imagined: their terror was beyond the power of direction or advice; while the wretched leader, whether from terror, or the natural effect of his situation, swelled so that, if it was before difficult, it was now impossible for him to stir from the spot he thus miserably occupied. One of the party, at this dreadful and critical moment, proposed, in the intense selfishness to which the feeling of vital danger reduces all, as the only means of escape from this horrible confinement,—this living grave,—to cut in pieces the wretched being who formed the obstruction, and clear it by dragging the dismembered carcass piecemeal past them! He heard this dreadful proposal, and contracting himself in agony at the idea of this death, was reduced by a strong muscular spasm to his usual dimensions, and was dragged out, affording room for the party to squeeze themselves by over his prostrate body. This unhappy creature was suffocated in the effort, and was left behind a corpse.—*Cabinet of Curiosities.*

A SENSIBLE HORSE.

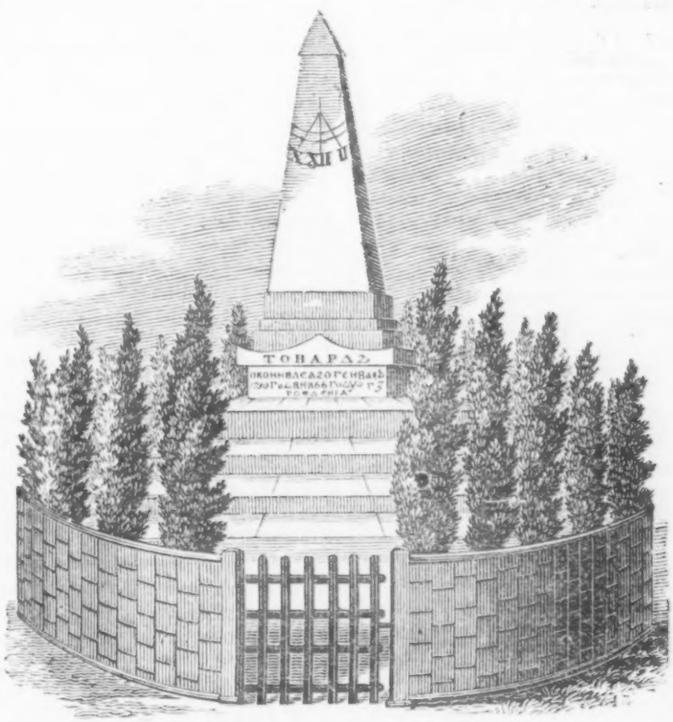
We do not think the records of *Instinct* ever contained a more extraordinary instance than we are now about to relate, and for the truth whereof we pledge ourselves. A few days since, Mr. J. Lane of Fascombe, in the parish of Ashelworth, in Gloucestershire, on his return home, turned his horse into a field in which it had been accustomed to graze. A few days before this, the horse had been shod, all-fours, but unluckily had been pinched in the shoeing of one foot. In the morning Mr. Lane missed the horse, and caused an active search to be made in the vicinity, when the following singular circumstances transpired:—The animal, as it may be supposed, feeling lame, made his way out of the field by unhanging the gate with his mouth, and went straight to the same farrier's shop, a distance of a mile and a half; the farrier had no sooner opened his shed, than the horse, which had evidently been standing there some time, advanced to the forge and held up the ailing foot. The farrier instantly began to examine the hoof, discovered the injury, took off the shoe, and replaced it more carefully—on which the horse immediately turned about, and set off at a merry pace for his well-known pasture.—Whilst Mr. Lane's servants were on the search, they chanced to pass by the forge, and on mentioning their supposed loss, the farrier replied, "Oh, he has been here, and shod, and gone home again!!" which on their returning they found to be actually the case.—*Ib.*

THE POISONED VALLEY OF JAVA.

It is known by the name of Guevo Upas, or poisoned Valley; and following a path which had been made for the purpose, the party shortly reached it with a couple of dogs and some fowls, for the purpose of making some experiments. On arriving at the mountain, the party dismounted, and scrambled up the side of the hill, a distance of a quarter of a mile, with the assistance of the branches of trees and projecting roots.

When a few yards from the valley, a strong, nauseous, and suffocating smell was experienced; but on approaching the margin, this inconvenience was no longer found. The valley is about half a mile in circumference, of an oval shape, and about thirty feet in length. The bottom of it appeared to be flat, without any vegetation, and a

few large stones scattered here and there. Skeletons of human beings, tigers, bears, deer, and all sorts of birds and wild animals, lay about in profusion. The ground on which they lay at the bottom of the valley appeared to be a hard, sandy substance, and no vapour was perceived. The sides were covered with vegetation. It was now proposed to enter it; and each of the party, having lit a cigar, managed to get within twenty feet of the bottom, where a sickening, nauseous smell was experienced, without any difficulty of breathing. A dog was now fastened at the end of a bamboo, and thrust to the bottom of the valley, while some of the party, with their watches in their hands, observed the effects. At the expiration of fourteen seconds the dog fell off his legs, without moving or looking round, and continued alive only eighteen minutes. The other dog now left the party, and went to his companion; on reaching him he was observed to stand quite motionless, and at the end of ten seconds fell down; he never moved his limbs after, and lived only seven minutes. A fowl was now thrown in, which died in a minute and a half, and another which was thrown in after, died in the space of a minute and a half. A heavy shower fell during the time that these experiments were going forward, which, from the interesting nature of the experiments, was quite disregarded. On the opposite side of the valley to that which was visited, lay a human skeleton, the head resting on the right arm. The effect of the weather had bleached the bones as white as ivory. This was probably the remains of some wretched rebel, hunted towards the valley, and taking shelter there unconscious of its character.—*Jamaica Watchman.*



HOWARD'S MONUMENT.

In Henderson's Biblical Researches in Russia, we find the following description of the monument, erected over the remains of Howard, the Philanthropist.

At the distance of five versts* to the North of Kherson, stands the original monument of the prince of Christian philanthropists, the illustrious Howard, who, after travelling fifty thousand British miles, to investigate and relieve the sufferings of humanity, fell a victim, near this place, to his unremitting exertions in this benevolent cause. It is situate a little east of the public road leading from Nikslaief to Kherson, near the southern bank of a small stream, which here diffuses a partial verdure across the steppe.† On the opposite bank are a few straggling and ruinous huts, and close by is a large garden, sheltered by fine lofty trees which have been planted to beautify the villa once connected with it, but now no more. The spot itself is sandy, with a scanty sprinkling of vegetation, and is only distinguishable from the rest of the steppe by two brick pyramids, and a few graves in which the neighboring peasantry have interred their dead—attracted, no doubt, by the report of the singular worth of the foreign friend whose ashes are here deposited. One of the pyramids is erected over the dust of the Philanthropist, and the other over the grave of a French gentleman who revered his memory, and wished to be buried by his side.

The genuine humility of Howard prompted him to choose this sequestered spot, and it was his anxious desire that neither monument nor inscription, but simply a sun dial, should be placed over his grave. This cenotaph is erected at a short distance from the Russian cemetery, and close to the public road. It is built of a compact white freestone, found at some distance, and is about thirty feet in height, surrounded by a wall of the same stone, seven feet high, by two hundred in circumference. Within this wall, in which is a beautiful cast iron gate, a fine row of Lombardy poplars has been planted, which, when fully grown, will greatly adorn the monument. On the pedestal is a Russian inscription of the following purport:

Died, Jan. 28, 1790, aged 65, Howard.

The sun dial is represented near the summit of the pillar, but with this remarkable circumstance—that the only divisions of time it exhibits are the hours from X to II, as if to intimate that a considerable portion of the morning of life is past ere we enter on the discharge of its active duties, and that, with many, the performance of them is closed, even at an early hour after the meridian of their days.

* A verst is about one mile and a half English.

† A steppe is a high, uncultivated plain, and for the most part, destitute of inhabitants.

POETRY.

TO THE EAGLE.—Percival.

[From the Atlantic Souvenir for 1827.]

Bird of the broad and sweeping wing,
Thy home is high in heaven,
Where wide the storms their banners fling,
And the tempest clouds are driven.
Thy throne is on the mountain top;
Thy fields, the boundless air;
And hoary peaks, that proudly prop
The skies, thy dwellings are.

Thou sittest like a thing of light
Amid the noontide blaze:
The midway sun is clear and bright;
It cannot dim thy gaze.
Thy pinions, to the rushing blast,
O'er the bursting billow spread,
Where the vessel plunges, hurry past,
Like an angel of the dead.

Thou art perched aloft on the beetling crag,
And the waves are white below,
And on, with a haste that cannot lag,
They rush in an endless flow.
Again thou hast plumed thy wing for flight
To lands beyond the sea,
And away, like a spirit wreathed in light,
Thou hurriest, wild and free.

Thou hurriest over the myriad waves,
And thou leavest them all behind;
Thou sweepest that place of unknown graves,
Fleet as the tempest wind.
When the night storm gathers dim and dark,
With a shrill and boding scream,
Thou rushest by the foundering bark
Quick as a passing dream.

Lord of the boundless realm of air,
In thy imperial name
The hearts of the bold and ardent dare
The dangerous path of fame.
Beneath the shade of thy golden wings,
The Roman legions bore,
From the river of Egypt's cloudy springs,
Their pride to the polar shore.

For thee they fought, for thee they fell,
And their oath was on thee laid;
To thee the clarions raised their swell,
And the dying warrior prayed.
Thou wert, through an age of death and fears,
The image of pride and power,
Till the gathered rage of a thousand years
Burst forth in one awful hour.

And then a deluge of wrath it came,
And the nations shook with dread;
And it swept the earth till its fields were flame,
And piled with the mingled dead.
Kings were rolled in the wasteful flood,
With the low and crouching slave;
And together lay, in a shroud of blood,
The coward and the brave.

And where was then thy fearless flight?
"O'er the dark, mysterious sea,
To the lands that caught the setting light,
The cradle of Liberty.
There, on the silent and lonely shore,
For ages, I watched alone,
And the world in its darkness asked no more
Where the glorious bird had flown.

But then came a bold and hardy few,
And they breasted the unknown wave;
I caught afar the wandering crew,
And I knew they were high and brave.
I wheeled around the welcome bark,
As it sought the desolate shore,
And up to heaven, like a joyous lark,
My quivering pinions bore.

And now that bold and hardy few
Are a nation wide and strong;
And danger and doubt I have led them through,
And they worship me in song;
And over their bright and glancing arms,
On field, and lake, and sea,
With an eye that fires, and a spell that charms,
I guide them to victory."

ITEMS OF NEWS.

The fleet of Don Miguel has been captured by that of Don Pedro, and consequently we may now soon expect something decisive on land.

A law of Virginia allows the retailing of spirituous liquors at *proper places* in the different counties. The magistrates of one of the counties have decided that there are no such places within their jurisdiction.

Col. R. M. Johnson has been re-elected to Congress from Kentucky. He has lately lost ten of his family by the cholera.

The amount of coal delivered from the Schuylkill Company during the week ending the 17th inst. was 152,903 tons.

The amount of the canal tolls accruing from the various canals in this State during the last month was $147,899 33, exceeding by $42,282 02 the receipts in the same month last year.

In Alabama, Gov. Gayle has been re-elected, and John Murphy chosen to Congress.

Joseph L. Frothingham, a student of the Oneida Institute, who was supposed to have been robbed and murdered last April in or near Utica, has been heard from. Severe study had impaired his reason; he supposed that he was flying from a volcanic mountain that had suddenly erupted at his side. He passed through Montreal, and shipped at Quebec for Liverpool. He recovered his reason at sea, and has advised his friends of his safety in a letter from Liverpool.

The great law case between the Orthodox and the Hicksite Friends in New Jersey, has terminated in favor of the former.

Lieut. T. R. Gedney, of the United States Navy, has invented an improved method of raising vessels upon an inclined single rail-way, for the purpose of cleansing their bottoms, repairing, &c.

☞CAUTION TO THE PUBLIC.

The public are cautioned against purchasing a note signed by the Editor and endorsed by G. V. H. Forbes, amounting to One Hundred Dollars. Said note was intended for discount at the Brooklyn Bank; but inasmuch as it has not been discounted there, and has not been returned, and no clue can be obtained whereby it can be found, the Editor has reason to suspect that some fraud is in the wind. Said note was *due* to *no one*, but ran payable to the endorser, after the usual mode of drawing notes intended for discount. This is therefore to give timely notice, that the public may be on their guard against purchasing it, and that the holder, whoever he may be, may be induced to look to the matter without delay.

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PUBLISHED AT 222 WILLIAM STREET,

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